

RE: Gannet cull
38(1)b <38(1)b@nature.scot>
To: 38(1)b
Cc 38(1)b; 38(1)b

Thu 02/10/2025 16:35

Thanks 38(1)b.

Mr. 38(1)b is well known to us with regard to other bird related issues. As you would have expected we did look at the impact on conservation status of the harvest on Sula Sgeir and concluded with the max of 500 as a precautionary bag limit. Staff did also go out round the rock, before the Men of Ness went out, and all the territories were filled and no sick or dying birds observed.

I think in the end they harvested 495 birds.

Thanks again for keeping us in the loop.

Slainte
38(1)b

.....
38(1)b | 38(1)b

Mob: 38(1)b

nature.scot | [@NatureScot](https://twitter.com/NatureScot) | Scotland's Nature Agency | *Buidheann Nadair na h-Alba*

If you receive this email in the evening or early morning it means I am working flexibly but please do not feel that you have to pick this up outside of your own normal working hours.

From: 38(1)b@gov.scot <38(1)b@gov.scot>
Sent: 29 September 2025 13:38
To: 38(1)b <38(1)b@nature.scot>
Cc: 38(1)b@fss.scot; 38(1)b@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Gannet cull

Hi 38(1)b

38(1)b from FSS has been responding to a general enquiry about the gannet cull – I have passed on the latest exchange in case there was something NatureScot may have wanted to respond to given his concerns around NatureScot issuing these licenses. I don't think at this point there is anything for us in AHWD or FSS to respond to.

Kind regards

38(1)b

38(1)b, 38(1)b, Animal Health and Welfare Division (P Spur)
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate, Scottish Government
Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
Tel +38(1)b Mobile: 38(1)b Email: [38\(1\)b@gov.scot](mailto:38(1)b@gov.scot)

My normal working hours are 9am to 5pm (office based)

From: 38(1)b <38(1)b@hotmail.com>
Sent: 29 September 2025 13:00
To: 38(1)b <38(1)b@fss.scot>
Cc: 38(1)b <38(1)b@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: Gannet cull

Thank 38(1)b, but given the link between viruses in animal transposing to humans I don't feel it's acceptable that NatureScot can issue licenses to kill seabirds for human consumption without any responsibility to consider the dangers, especially when bird flu has decimated the UK sea bird population.

Someone should be accountable for this situation.

Regards, 38(1)b

From: 38(1)b@fss.scot <38(1)b@fss.scot>
Sent: 29 September 2025 12:50
To: 38(1)b@hotmail.com <38(1)b@hotmail.com>
Cc: 38(1)b@gov.scot <38(1)b@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Gannet cull

Good afternoon 38(1)b,

I have copied 38(1)b in, from SG as everything related to disease surveillance will fall under their remit rather than FSS.

He highlighted that for AI surveillance in wild birds we publish report cases made by public and positive cases on their web pages...

For further information on wild bird findings, click [here](#). Please also see a map showing all HPAI cases [here](#). To assist in reporting members of the public are advised that if they find:

- **a single** dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or gull
 - **five or more** dead wild birds of any other species
- at the same place at the same time to report this on GOV.UK's [report dead wild birds page](#). Alternatively, you can phone the helpline: 03459 33 55 77.

Hope this helps.

Kind regards,

38(1)b

38(1)b

Food Standards Scotland

Pilgrim House, Old Ford Road, Aberdeen, AB11 5RL

Tel: 38(1)b

38(1)b@fss.scot

www.foodstandards.gov.scot



From: 38(1)b<38(1)b@hotmail.com>

Sent: 19 September 2025 15:05

To: 38(1)b<38(1)b@fss.scot>

Subject: Re: Gannet cull

Hi 38(1)b,

It's not just eating gannet meat, the breeding colony of gannets will be covered in large amounts of birds droppings but if the powers that be don't think it's a problem then I hope they will take responsibility should someone involved in this cull contract bird flu and die.

The bird population has collapsed over the last three years in the Highlands and my feeling is authority is trying to keep it quiet because it can only be bird flu to have such a drastic effect in such a short space of time.

It's sad that people have to die these days before anyone takes note !

Thanks for looking into it.

Regards, 38(1)b

From: 38(1)b@fss.scot <38(1)b@fss.scot>
Sent: 19 September 2025 12:12
To: 38(1)b@hotmail.com <38(1)b@hotmail.com>
Subject: RE: Gannet cull

Good afternoon 38(1)b,

I have made some enquiries to the relevant Local Authority in Lewis about this. As the meat from this birds is not processed in one of FSS approved establishments this practice do not fall under our remit. However, by making some enquiries to the local authorities they have confirmed that they consider the risk of transmission of bird flu to humans negligible as the meat is boiled for at least 45 minutes before consumption and that should eliminate any potential risks.

In any case, as far as I know currently there is no case declared of avian influenza in Lewis.

Also I provide here below the link to NHS information regarding bird flu transmission and how to minimise those. The transmission through food is very rare.

[Bird flu - NHS](#)

I am also adding below the link to a risk assessment conducted by FSA in 2023 on the risk of acquiring avian influenza from poultry products:

[Risk assessment of acquiring Avian Influenza from Poultry Products: Executive Summary | Food Standards Agency](#)

I hope this helps.

Kind regards,

38(1)b
38(1)b
Food Standards Scotland
Pilgrim House, Old Ford Road, Aberdeen, AB11 5RL

Tel: 38(1)b
38(1)b@fss.scot
www.foodstandards.gov.scot





From: 38(1)b <38(1)b@hotmail.com>

Sent: 18 September 2025 10:40

To: 38(1)b <38(1)b@fss.scot>

Subject: Re: Gannet cull

Importance: High

Hi 38(1)b,

They are young gannet chicks and clubbed to death just before leaving the nest of the island of Sula Sgeir by islanders from Lewis.

After they're killed they skinned, salted and piled on heaps over a two week period. Some are then offered for sale on the dock in Ness on Lewis.

The cull was suspended when bird flu was detected but NatureScot has decided to issue licenses for a cull of 500 this year, previously it's been 2000. As you will see from the attached letter, NatureScot believe it's the responsibility of the licensee to make sure the meat is fit for human consumption but they know they'll be sold straight off the dock shortly after the boat comes back with the cull so I don't see how that's possible.

I've previously challenged NatureScot on this because from what I read, meat for human consumption shouldn't be out of refrigeration for more than a few hours.

My main concern now is the danger this poses of transition of bird flu to humans and NatureScot's flippant way of addressing it, surely this should be taken more seriously !

Regards, 38(1)b

From: 38(1)b@fss.scot <38(1)b@fss.scot>

Sent: 18 September 2025 08:56

To: 38(1)b@hotmail.com <38(1)b@hotmail.com>

Subject: RE: Gannet cull

Good morning,

I have been forwarded your query below from SG as it may be better placed with Food Standards Scotland to answer.

Before trying to give you a response I would like to understand better the situation below, would you be able to expand a bit further please? How are the birds culled and how they would enter the food chain?

Are you asking if there is any risk to public health in meat infected with avian influenza?

Thanks

Kind regards,

38(1)b

38(1)b

Food Standards Scotland

Pilgrim House, Old Ford Road, Aberdeen, AB11 5RL

Tel: 38(1)b

38(1)b@fss.scot

www.foodstandards.gov.scot



From: 38(1)b <38(1)b@hotmail.com>

Sent: 13 September 2025 10:42

To: 38(1)b <38(1)b@gov.scot>

Subject: Gannet cull

Dear Sir / Madam,

NatureScot have issued licenses to cull 500 gannet chicks again this year after it being suspended because of the threat of bird flu. The licenses are issued on the basis of food for human consumption but FoI shows NatureScot do not consider the possible health risk of consuming gannet meat that might have been subjected to bird flu.

Do you have any powers to address this matter ?

Yours sincerely, 38(1)b.

This e-mail (and any files or other attachments transmitted with it) is intended solely for the attention of the addressee(s). Unauthorised use, disclosure, storage, copying or distribution of any part of this e-mail is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient please destroy the email, remove any copies from your system and inform the sender immediately by return.

Communications with the Scottish Government may be monitored or recorded in order to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The views or opinions contained within this e-mail may not necessarily reflect those of the Scottish Government.

This e-mail (and any files or other attachments transmitted with it) is intended solely for the attention of the addressee(s). Unauthorised use, disclosure, storage, copying or distribution of any part of this e-mail is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient please destroy the email, remove any copies from your system and inform the sender immediately by return.

Communications with the Scottish Government may be monitored or recorded in order to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The views or opinions contained within this e-mail may not necessarily reflect those of the Scottish Government.

This e-mail (and any files or other attachments transmitted with it) is intended solely for the attention of the addressee(s). Unauthorised use, disclosure, storage, copying or distribution of any part of this e-mail is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient please destroy the email, remove any copies from your system and inform the sender immediately by return.

Communications with the Scottish Government may be monitored or recorded in order to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The views or opinions contained within this e-mail may not necessarily reflect those of the Scottish Government.

This e-mail (and any files or other attachments transmitted with it) is intended solely for the attention of the addressee(s). Unauthorised use, disclosure, storage, copying or distribution of any part of this e-mail is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient please destroy the email, remove any copies from your system and inform the sender immediately by return.

Communications with the Scottish Government may be monitored or recorded in order to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The views or opinions contained within this e-mail may not necessarily reflect those of the Scottish Government.

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the system manager or the sender.

Please note that for business purposes, outgoing and incoming emails from and to NatureScot may be monitored.

Tha am post-dealain seo agus fiosrachadh sam bith na chois dìomhair agus airson an neach no buidheann ainmichte a- mhàin. Mas e gun d' fhuair sibh am post-dealain seo le mearachd, cuiribh fios dhan manaidsear-siostaim no neach-sgrìobhaidh.

Thoiribh an aire airson adhbharan gnothaich, 's dòcha gun tèid sùil a chumail air puist-dealain a' tighinn a-steach agus a' dol a- mach bho NàdarAlba.
